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INJURIES PRODUCED BY THE PROPAGATION OF **AIRBLAST WAVES THROUGH ORIFICES**

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Blast Criteria Airblast Jetting Blast Injuries Personnel Effects Chamber Filling Stagnation Overpressu	Shocktubes			
The biological effects produced by airblast waves passing through small openings were evaluated using sheep. Specimens were oriented with their thoraces in front of circular orifices of 3.8- and 7.6-cm radii in the endplate of a 0.6-m diameter shocktube. Subjects were also tested in front of a D-shaped orifice, equivalent radius of 24 cm, in the upstream wall of a test chamber located beyond the end of a 1.8-m diameter shocktube. The animals sustained crushing type of injuries, primarily to the rib cage, lungs, and liver.				

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20. Abstract (Continued)

Stagnation overpressures were measured at various distances downstream from circular and rectangular orifices. Equations were developed to compute the stagnation overpressures as a function of input overpressures.

Injury levels were related to the stagnation overpressure and distance from the orifice. Based on these results, injury criteria were developed for personnel: no injury below 0.7, slight injury from 0.7 to 1.4, and severe injury above 1.4 atm of stagnation overpressure. The criteria were discussed in relation to the occupants of armored vehicles.

PREFACE

The information in this report should aid in defining the airblast hazards to personnel inside armored vehicles and certain field fortifications.

The research was performed under U. S. Department of Energy Contract No. EY-76-C-1013 through Interagency Agreement with the Defense Nuclear Agency, DNA RDT&E B384081466 U99QAXMK00008 H2590D and was performed for Director, Defense Nuclear Agency, Washington, D. C.

The authors wish to acknowledge the contributions of Mrs. Berlinda Martinez who provided editorial assistance and compiled this report and Mr. Takeshi Minagawa who prepared the illustrations.

This research was conducted according to the principles enunciated in the "Guide for Laboratory Animal Facilities and Care," prepared by the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council.

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kilopascals	0.1450377	pounds-force per square inch (psi)

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INTRODUCTION

The airblast hazard to personnel in open terrain was reported to depend on the peak overpressure, the duration of the overpressure, and the orientation of the subject with respect to the explosive source. This applied, in general, to both the direct-over-pressure effects and blast-displacement effects.

The response of personnel to airblast inside open field fortifications depended on the volume of the structure and the area of its entrance. Inside small structures with relatively large openings, such as foxholes and weapons emplacements, the direct-overpressure effects predominated because of the multiplication of the incident shock front when reflected from the walls and floor of the structure.²

Inside larger structures with door-size openings, for instance open shelters and command posts, the direct effects were less important since the peak pressures in the initial shock and subsequent reflections inside the structure were a small fraction of that in the outside wave. Blast-displacement effects predominated because during the fill phase the static pressure became converted to high-velocity flow through the entryway. Inside the doorway, the velocity of the entering flow was greater than that in the blast wave on the surface.

The airblast threat to personnel inside armored vehicles wherein the blast enters through open hatches and firing ports has not been defined. The purpose of this study was to determine injury levels produced by airblasts transmitted through small openings as a function of the input overpressure and distance from the openings.

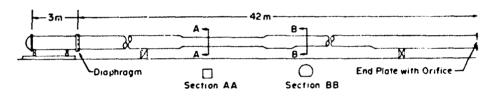
PROCZDURES

SHOCKTUBES

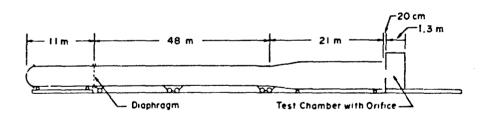
Two shocktubes were used in this study to drive airblast waves through orifices.

One of the shocktubes was 45 m long with a 0.6 m I.D. (Figure 1). It was driven by compressed air and utilized Mylar $^{\circledR}$ diaphragms. Endplates that contained a given size orifice were placed at the distal end of the expansion chamber. Circular orifices, 7.6-and 3.8-cm radii, and a rectangular orifice, 11.4 x 29.2 cm, were utilized. Most of the animal testing and overpressure measurements were done in connection with the 7.6-cm-radius orifice. The duration of the overpressure on the upstream side of the endplate was on the order of 200 msec.

The second shocktube was approximately 80 m long and varied from 1.0 to 1.8 m in diameter (Figure 1). It was operated with compressed air or by the detonation of



0.6 m DIAMETER SHOCK TUBE



1.0 - 1.8 m DIAMETER SHOCK TUBE

Figure 1. Shocktube configurations.

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hydrogen-oxygen mixtures in the compression chamber. Mylar diaphragms were used. The shocktube was operated open-ended. A test chamber, 1.3 by 3.0 m and roughly semicircular in crossection, was located 20 cm from the end of the shocktube. The chamber had a volume of about 9 m³. A D-shaped orifice was in the center of the upstream wall of the chamber. This orifice was patterned after the hatches in many armored vehicles. It had an area of 0.186 π^2 and an equivalent radius of 24 cm. Side-on overpressures were measured by transducers (Model ST-2, Susquehanna Instruments) 30 cm in from the end of the shocktube and at the center of the side wall inside the test chamber. Signals from the transducers were recorded by cathode ray oscilloscopes. Typical side-on overpressure patterns are illustrated in Figure 2. The duration of the overpressure in the shocktube averaged 190 msec; inside the test chamber it averaged 212 msec. Stagnation overpressures were not measured inside the test chamber.

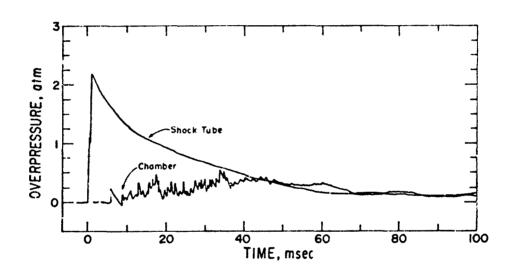


Figure 2. Pressure-time patterns measured at the end of the 1.0- to 1.8-m diameter shocktube and on the side wall of the test chamber.

TEST SUBJECTS

Female sheep, Columbia-Rambouillet cross, with a mean body weight of 41 kg, were used to assess the effects of airblast waves propagating through orifices. All animals were anasthetized by an intravenous injection of sodium pentobarbital. They were maintained at a surgical level of anesthesia from 5 minutes before each test until they were sacrificed within 30 minutes following the test. The experimental design was to determine no injury, slight injury, and severe injury levels in terms of distance from a 7.6-cm radius orifice for various input overpressure levels upstream of the orifice. A total of 21 sheep were tested at seven distances downstream of the 7.6-cm radius orifice. The subjects were restrained in a fixed chair with the ventral surfaces of their thoraces in line with the orifice.

Four unrestrained animals, numbered 27 through 30, were placed with the ventral surfaces of their thoraces 61 cm from the 7.6-cm-radius orifice. They were suspended by two lines attached to rings that could slide along an overhead pipe oriented parallel to the long axis of the shocktube. The blast-displacement time patterns of the subjects were measured by high-speed motion-picture cameras.

Five subjects were restrained in a chair with the ventral surfaces of their thoraces in line with the 3.8-cm radius orifice. The three at a distance of 30 cm received stagnation overpressures of from 2.30 to 2.84 atm. Those at 61 cm from the orifice were subjected to 1.36 and 1.75 atm.

Nine subjects were exposed to blast inside the test chamber. Eight were approximately 60 cm from the D-shaped orifice. Four were seated and restrained with the ventral surfaces of their thoraces in line with the orifice. Two were seated unrestrained with the right sides of their thoraces in line with the orifice. Three were suspended and oriented with their heads toward the orifice, long axis of their bodies parallel to the floor of the chamber. An additional subject was suspended with its head at the orifice.

RESULTS

STAGNATION OVERPRESSURES IN JETS EMANATING FROM ORIFICES Circular Orifices

The atmospheric pressure into which the jet expanded outside the shocktube was 82.7 kPa. All pressures in this report were expressed in atmospheres. The peak reflected pressure on the upstream side of the endplate was designated as the input pressure, P_i . Stagnation pressures, designated P_s , were measured by face-on transducers at various distances, X, from the orifice and at various distances, Y, from the axis of the orifice.

Figure 3 illustrates the stagnation overpressure-time patterns measured at selected distances from the 7.6-cm radius orifice along the center axis. These waveforms were generated by input overpressures, P_i -1, of 0.80 atm. The waveforms were characterized by an initial shock front followed by a growth in the stagnation overpressure. There was a rapid decrease in the magnitude of the incident shock front with distance from the orifice and a corresponding increase in the time between the shock front and and the time to peak stagnation overpressure.

In general, for as long as the input overpressure was approximately constant, the recorded stagnation overpressure tended to remain constant, although moderately large fluctuations which appeared to be random in nature were noted (see Figure 3). Each P_i -1, X, and Y combination was tested at least two times, and an average stagnation repressure was computed using the values obtained by averaging through the fluctuations on the individual records. In order to test scaling procedures, a limited number of measurements were made using a 3.8-cm radius orifice exposed to a P_i -1 of 3.50 atm.

Figure 4 shows, for a P_i -1 of 1.33 atm, the measured stagnation overpressures, P_s -1, as a function of the distances from the orifice and axis scaled in terms of the orifice radius. For some distance beyond the orifice, the stagnation overpressure remained nearly constant and equal to the input overpressure. The P_s -1 appeared to decrease smoothly with X, and, at a given X, P_s -1 was higher near the center of the orifice than it was near the edge.

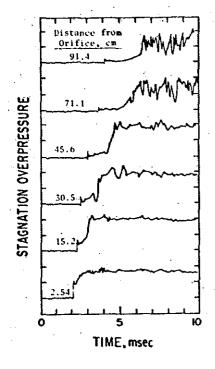


Figure 3. Pressure-time patterns measured by face-on gauges on the center axis at distances from the 7.6-cm radius orifice generated by input overpressures of 0.80 atm.

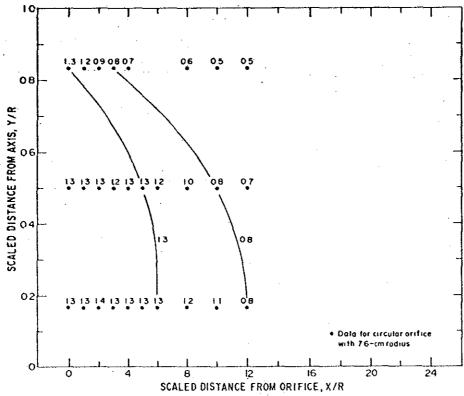


Figure 4. Stagnation overpressure contours from a 7.6-cm radius orifice generated by an input overpressure of 1.33 atm.

Figure 5 presents the stagnation overpressure contours for a P_i -1 of 3.50 atm. At the orifice (X/R = 0), the stagnation overpressure was approximately equal to the input overpressure of 3.50 atm. It can be seen that the stagnation overpressure appeared to go through a series of oscillations with distance. The stagnation overpressure appeared to be at a local maximum for X/R values of approximately 0.0, 3.0, and 6.0 and at a local minimum for X/R values of approximately 1.5 and 5.0. Thus, the length of one period represented approximately 3.0 to 3.3 radii. An empirical formula cited in Reference 4 for steady-state jets indicated that the period length expressed in radii was approximately equal to

1.78
$$(P_i-1.9)^{1/2}$$

For a P_i -1 of 3.50 atm, this expression predicted a period length of 2.9 radii which was close to the value estimated from Figure 5 for transient jets.

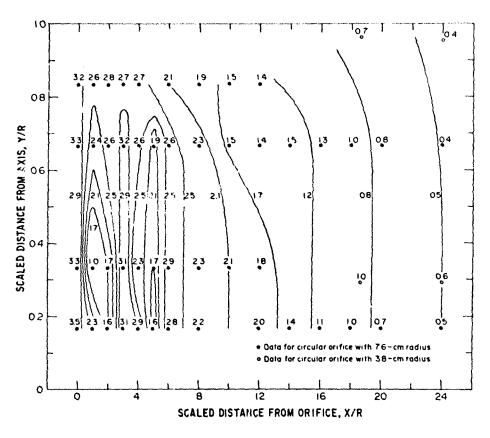


Figure 5. Stagnation overpressure contours from a 7.6-cm radius orifice generated by an input overpressure of 3.50 atm.

According to Figure 5, the stagnation overpressure, P_S -1, decreased smoothly with distance for X/R values greater than approximately six. At these distances, for a given X, P_S -1 was larger near the axis of the orifice than it was away from the axis.

For the various P_i -1 and X combinations tested, P_S -1 was measured at several Y/R values less than 1.0. By taking each P_S -1 value as the mean stagnation overpressure over an area in the shape of a two-dimensional torus, it was possible to compute the average stagnation overpressure over the projected orifice area for each X and P_i -1. These averaged stagnation overpressures were plotted in Figure 6 as a function of X/R for the four input overpressures. It was noted that the data for each input overpressure were approximately linear and could be represented by an equation of the form

$$P_{S}^{-1} = (P_{SM}^{-1}) \left(1 - \frac{X/R}{X_{M}^{-1}/R}\right)$$
 (1)

where P_{SM} was the maximum value of P_S (i.e., the P_S for X/R = 0) and X_M was the maximum value of X (i.e., the X for $P_S-1=0$). The P_{SM} values estimated by fitting lines to the data were close to the values that would be predicted from the theoretical Pitot-tube formula.⁵

$$P_{SM}-1 = P_{1}-1$$
 for $P_{1} < 1.893$ (2)

$$P_{sm}-1 = 6 \left[(P_i)^{2/7} - 1 \right]^{7/2} / \left[(35/36) (P_i)^{2/7} - 1 \right] 1 \text{ for } P_i > 1.893$$

Note that when the flow was subsonic (P_i <1.893), P_{sm} was equal to P_i , whereas when the flow became supersonic, these pressures differ as a result of the curved shock wave that forms in front of the gauge.

Least-squares regression lines were fitted to the data in Figure 6 subject to the constraint that P_{SM} corresponded to the theoretical value given by Equation 2. The X_{m} values were then computed from the regression equations. The following empirical equation was developed expressing X_{m} as a function of P_{i} :

$$X_{m}/R = \left[0.02905 + 0.02121 (P_{i}-1)^{-0.8}\right]^{-1}$$
 (3)

It should be noted that the P_i -1 values used to derive this equation ranged from 0.80 to 5.71. Since Equation 3 was empirical in nature, it would be suspect to use it to extrapolate beyond the experimental range. In particular, it is not known if X_m/R would approach an upper bound with increasing P_i as predicted by the formula.

The four lines in Figure 6 were derived from Formulas 1, 2, and 3 using the measured P_i -1 values. In general, the lines fit the data reasonably well. Note that the line for P_i -1 = 3.50 falls close to the data for either the 3.8- or the 7.6-cm radius orifice. Because the stagnation overpressure oscillated with distance from the orifice (see Figure 5), the data exhibit a large scatter around this line for X/R values less than ϵ . The dashed lines were drawn through the data to indicate the approximate nature of the oscillations. The Mach number, M, at any point in the undisturbed jet (the jet without the presence of gauges) can be estimated from the measured P_s -1 value at that point using the following formula.5

$$P_{s}-1 = (1 + M^{2}/5)^{7/2} - 1$$
 for $P_{s} < 1.893$ (4)
 $P_{s}-1 = (6M^{2}/5)^{7/2}/(7M^{2}/6 - 1/6)^{5/2} - 1$ for $P_{s} > 1.893$

A Mach number scale derived from Formula 4 has been included in Figure 6.

Rectangular Orifice

A limited number of tests were conducted using an 11.4×29.2 -cm rectangular orifice subjected to an input overpressure of 3.50 acm. On a given test, each of

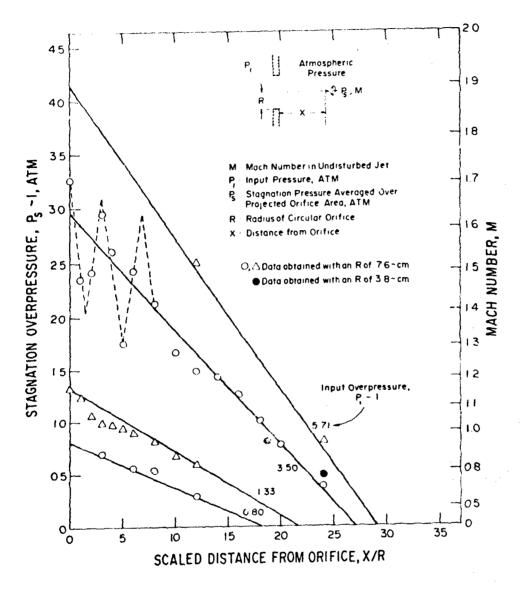


Figure 6. Stagnation overpressures averaged over the projected area of circular orifices.

the stagnation overpressure gauges was located an equal distance from the two short ends of the orifice with one gauge being 1.3 and the other being 3.8 cm from the orifice axis. The distance from the orifice to the gauges was varied on each test. The average stagnation overpressure over the projected orifice area was estimated to be 4/9 multiplied by the value measured at 1.3 cm plus 5/9 multiplied by the value measured at 3.8 cm. For a given distance from the orifice, the two measured stagnation overpressures never differed by more than 15 percent. For this reason, the computed average overpressures may be close to the true values even though they were based on a very limited number of measurements.

Figure 7 shows the data for the rectangular orifice in an analogous manner to the circular orifice shown in Figure 6. The figure was drawn using an equivalent R value assumed to be the radius of a circular orifice with an area equal to that of the rectangular orifice. The line in Figure 7 was the same regression line for a circular orifice that appeared in Figure 6. Except at X/R = 0, all of the data points fell below the line. For X/R values of less than 10, the measured stagnation overpressures, P_S -1, were on the average 0.85 times as large as the overpressures predicted from the line using the same X/R values. By way of comparison, a corresponding value of 0.97 was obtained for X/R values less than 10 using the circular orifice data for a P_i -1 of 3.50 atm. Thus, for a P_i -1 of 3.50 atm and X/R values less than 10, the average stagnation overpressures for a rectangular orifice can reasonably be approximated by taking 0.85 times the average overpressure predicted for a circular orifice. It is not certain if such a decrease in pressure would be appropriate at larger values of X/R, in that the datum point on Figure 7 at X/R = 14 fell close to the line.

The dashed lines drawn in Figure 7 indicated that, as in the case of a circular orifice exposed to the same P_i -1 of 3.50 atm, the stagnation overpressure tended to oscillate with the distance from the rectangular orifice. The length of one period appeared to be about 2.5 equivalent radii, somewhat less than the 3.0 to 3.3 radii found for a circular orifice.

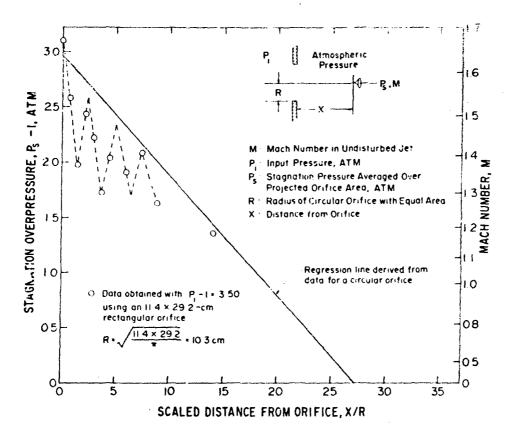


Figure 7. Stagnation overpressures averaged over the projected area of a rectangular orifice.

NATURE OF INJURIES

Crushing type of injuries were produced by the airblast jet emanating from the orifices. Among the animals in front of the 7.6-cm orifice, the intrathoracic injuries ranged from contusions of the intercostal muscles to multiple compound rib fractures along the midaxillary line and/or at the vertebral junction. In severe cases, the ends of fractured ribs punctured the lungs producing massive hemothoraces. The pulmonary lesions ranged from small subpleural air blebs surrounded by petechial hemorrhages to multiple, large air blebs and associated hemorrhagic areas. Scattered contusions of the diaphragm were a common lesion. At the higher stagnation overpressure levels this lesion was severe. Intra-abdominally ruptured livers with associated hemoperitoneum were a common finding.

The same injury pattern described above was found in subjects that were unrestrained in front of the 7.6-cm radius orifice. According to the film records, the thoraces of restrained or unrestrained animals underwent marked compression during the blast loading. Maximum compression occurred within the same time period in both groups. The thoraces of unrestrained animals would reach their maximum compression before the animals were displaced a distance of 10 cm by the flow. The peak velocity attained by Animals Nos. 27, 28, 29, and 30 was 4.27, 2.68, 1.37, and 7.92 m/sec, respectively.

The animals restrained at distances of 30 and 61 cm in front of the 3.8-cm radius orifice were not significantly injured by input pressures that produced severe injury in subjects at comparable distances from the 7.6-cm radius orifice.

Inside the test chamber, the same crushing injuries occurred in animals seated with their thoraces facing or side-on to the orifice as occurred in connection with the 7.6-cm radius orifice. Animals oriented with their heads toward the orifice were less injured than those with their thoraces opposite the orifice.

INJURIES IN RELATION TO STAGNATION OVERPRESSURE

Figure 8 summarizes the degree of injury for each animal as a function of the stagnation overpressure and scaled distances from the 7.6- and 24.4-cm radius orifices. The symbols indicate animals with no injuries, those with slight injuries, and those with severe injuries. Slight injuries included small subpleural air blebs on the lungs, traces of lung hemorrhage, and mild intercostal contusions. The severe injuries were, for the most part, in the form of rib fracture, liver rupture, and extensive contusion of the diaphragm. As seen in Figure 8, the no-injury region was below 0.7 atm of stagnation overpressure and slight injuries occurred between 0.7 and 1.4 atm. Above 1.4 atm all the animals sustained severe injuries. Animal No. 2 was a 3-minute fatality.

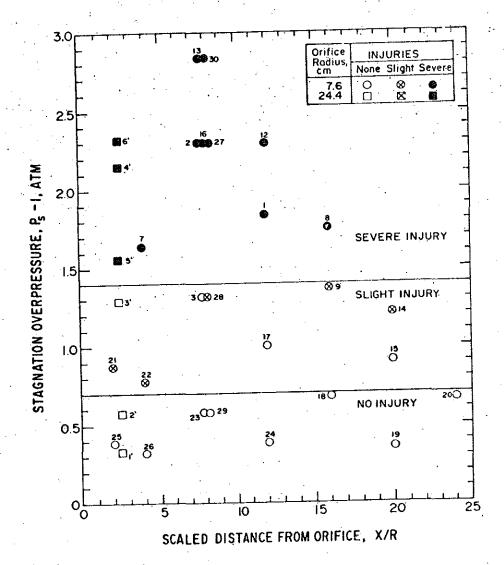


Figure 8. Injury levels in relation to stagnation overpressures and distancé from orifices.

DISCUSSION

INJURY CRITERIA FOR BLAST-INDUCED JET FLOW THROUGH ORIFICES

The stagnation overpressure-injury levels obtained with sheep were selected as injury criteria for personnel subjected to blast jet flow from orifices. The tentative criteria were applied to personnel inside armored vehicles when their thoraces were in line with an opening, Figure 9. The curves related the incident side-on overpressures required to generate stagnation overpressure levels through orifices of 0.7 and 1.4 atm as a function of range and explosive yield. The criteria apply to openings in vehicles that were side-on or back-on to the blast. The upper curve in the figure pertains to openings that were in the portion of the vehicle oriented face-on to the blast and thus were filled by reflected overpressures.

The criteria apply to circular orifices of from 15 to 48 cm in diameter, to square openings having an equivalent area, and to rectangular ones having L/W ratios of 2.5 or less. The criteria do not apply to openings of less than 15 cm in diameter.

Certain areas were identified that require better definition before more generalized blast criteria can be established. Among these were the influence that the duration of the jet flow had on the biological effects and the lateral extent of the jet flow through openings at the higher overpressure levels. The response of the head and neck to the blast jet flow and an assessment of the effects produced by jets downstream of rectangular openings having large L/W ratios were other areas that required further definition.

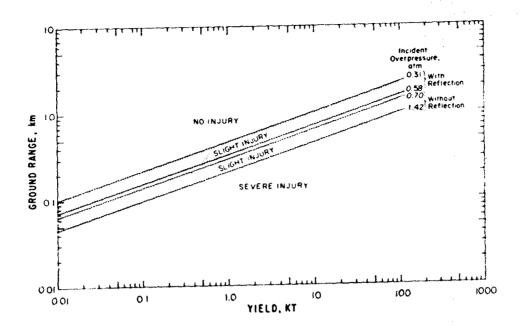


Figure 9. Injury criteria for blast-induced jet flow through orifices in relation to range and yield computed for a surface burst.

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